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glow from some brilliant imagination other than his own, before he can be interested, is as unfitted for the study of history as a blind man for the study of astronomy. To say the least, some of us have been in the habit of calling such writers as Freeman, Stubbs, Waitz, and others that might be mentioned, historians, while Froude, and Scott we have relegated to the world of polite literature. They are brilliant and useful in their way, but about as helpful to the student of history as colored glasses to a biologist. Macaulay to be sure, reigns in a limbo all his own, where the two worlds meet. He certainly belongs both to history, and to literature, but to the searcher along the dark ways of the past, a light so dazzling that it blinds, is surely not the safest guide.

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*The Private Life of the Romans.* By HARRIET WATERS PRESTON and LOUISE DODGE. The Students' Series of Latin Classics. Boston: Leach, Shewell, & Sanborn, 1893.

The conception of this book was an exceedingly happy one. It is a symptom of the growing tendency in our schools and colleges to emphasize the humanistic as opposed to the formal side of classical studies. Moreover it is a recognition of the necessity for an orderly and systematic study of the subject of private antiquities, as opposed to the chance gleanings of cursory reading.

The execution too of the book has much to commend it. We recognize the same lucidity of expression and charm of style which have won admiration for the other literary work of these gifted and accomplished women. Yet with all this it is questionable whether they have not made a mistake in giving us a compilation from Marquardt and Friedländer instead of the mature fruit of a profounder study of the whole field of which they treat. The book, as it is, will undoubtedly be useful and stimulating; yet we miss that sureness of touch and accuracy in details, which are so important in a book intended for school and college use. Minor slips are frequent and some serious errors occur.

Thus the cut of a "bath from an ancient painting" given on p. 49 ill becomes a book which is professedly based on Marquardt. It is Marquardt's merit to have exposed the fraudulent character of this illustration, and to have shown that it goes no further back than a sixteenth century MS.

On p. 64 the *toga praetexta* is described as "a simple woollen tunic (!) with a broad purple stripe (*clavus latus*) down the front." Of course the toga was not a tunic, nor was the *toga praetexta* distinguished by a purple stripe down the front, but on the contrary by a purple border, as is correctly stated on p. 12. The same confusion of toga and tunic is continued on p. 65 by reference to

an unheard-of *tunica praetexta*, and appears also on p. 12, where the *toga praetexta* is again described as "a simple tunic."

On p. 53 *mola salsa* is explained as salted cakes. It was in reality salted meal used for sacrifices.

On p. 141 the brigand Felix Bulla is said to have flourished in the reign of Septimius Severus, "*i. e.* to say in the middle years of the third century." Septimius Severus died in 211, and Felix was executed in 204.

In the foot-notes to pp. 72, 73 reference is made to the Eugubean tables as written in undecipherable characters and "probably containing records of *hospitia publica*, dating from Etruscan or even Pelasgic times." It certainly is no secret that these tables are not undecipherable, but are written in Umbrian and long since yielded to rational interpretation. They have nothing to do with *hospitia publica*.

On p. 33 the *fauces* of the house are spoken of as "two narrow passages" flanking the *tablinum*. In reality there was but a single passage.

Misprints and false quantities are somewhat numerous considering the compass of the book. I have noted: p. 5, (Lucius Aemilius) Publius for Paulus; p. 6 Oliper for Olipor; p. 10 *coemtio* for *coēmtiō*; p. 13 *Quāndo*; p. 14 *Fescennina* for *Fescennini*; *deductio* for *-iō*; p. 18 *conclamatio*; p. 25 *puticuli*; p. 37 Baths of Caracallus; p. 67 *villicus* for *villicus*; p. 70 *pedisequi*; p. 88 *pipperatum*; p. 85 *allex* (thrice) for *allex*.

On p. 140 ass for *as* becomes doubly amusing when coupled with the reference to its use as payment for the provender of a mule.

A second edition ought to accord several topics more generous treatment, *e. g.*, slavery, marriage, and the status of women. Chapters too might be added on the games of the Circus and Coliseum, also on the stage. If it should be felt necessary to keep the book within present limits, the long chapter on agriculture, which occupies a fifth of the book might be at least curtailed.

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## NOTES

The dedication exercises of the M. P. Coburn library of Colorado college were held on the 14th of March. The address was delivered by President Harper, of the University of Chicago. The new library building is a beautiful structure and a credit to the educational institutions of Colorado.